

2025



EDUCATION
WITHOUT BORDERS

ANNUAL REPORT



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We have reached our 24th year milestone since becoming a fully-fledged and responsible organization in 2002. It has been a remarkable journey starting with a single school and expanding to seven schools in 2025. This Annual Report documents our progress. Support continues to come from our partner organizations in South Africa, Canada and Australia which includes our South African Film Festivals.

As we reflect on the journey of Education without Borders, we are reminded that meaningful educational change is not measured only by numbers, but by transformed lives, renewed hope, and opportunities created for young people who may otherwise have been left behind.

What makes EwB unique is our commitment to long-term educational transformation. We believe that strong literacy and numeracy foundations open doors to future opportunities. At the same time, we recognise that learners thrive when they feel safe, valued, supported and connected to a community that believes in their potential. Whether through a reading lesson in a Foundation Phase classroom, a mathematics tutoring session in high school, a warm meal, a surfing experience, or guidance towards tertiary education, every interaction contributes to building confidence, resilience, and aspiration.

While significant challenges remain within South African education, we remain optimistic and determined. Every learner who improves their reading, masters a mathematical concept, completes school or enters tertiary education is evidence that change is possible. Together, we are not simply supporting learners for today; we are helping to shape future leaders, professionals, parents, and citizens who will contribute positively to South Africa and beyond.

Thank you for believing in this vision and for walking this journey with us. The impact reflected in this report belongs to all of us. To every learner, tutor, teacher, principal, parent, partner and donor, thank you.

Yours in education,



Corvell Cranfield

EwB Director of Education and Operations



Ruth and Cecil Hershler

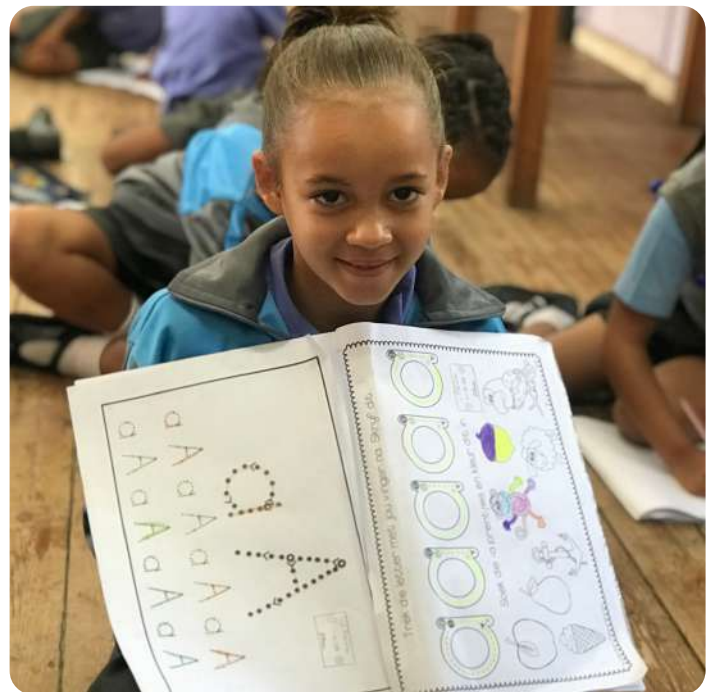
Co-Founders of EwB

South Africa Programme Highlights

Strengthening Early Literacy Foundations

Across EwB partner schools, many learners enter Grade 1 without prior exposure to early childhood development programmes or structured literacy environments. These early learning gaps often create long-term barriers to academic success. EwB's Early Learning & Language Enrichment Programme seeks to address these challenges through targeted reading and writing support for learners in Grades 1-3. It is also supported by tutors who received ongoing literacy training throughout the year.

In 2025, with 223 Grade 1 learners participating, it became the largest cohort within the programme and the anchor of EwB's early learning strategy. The impact of this work was evident across programme sites. At Nyameko Primary, approximately 80% of Grade 3 learners demonstrated noticeable improvements in phonics, writing and reading confidence.



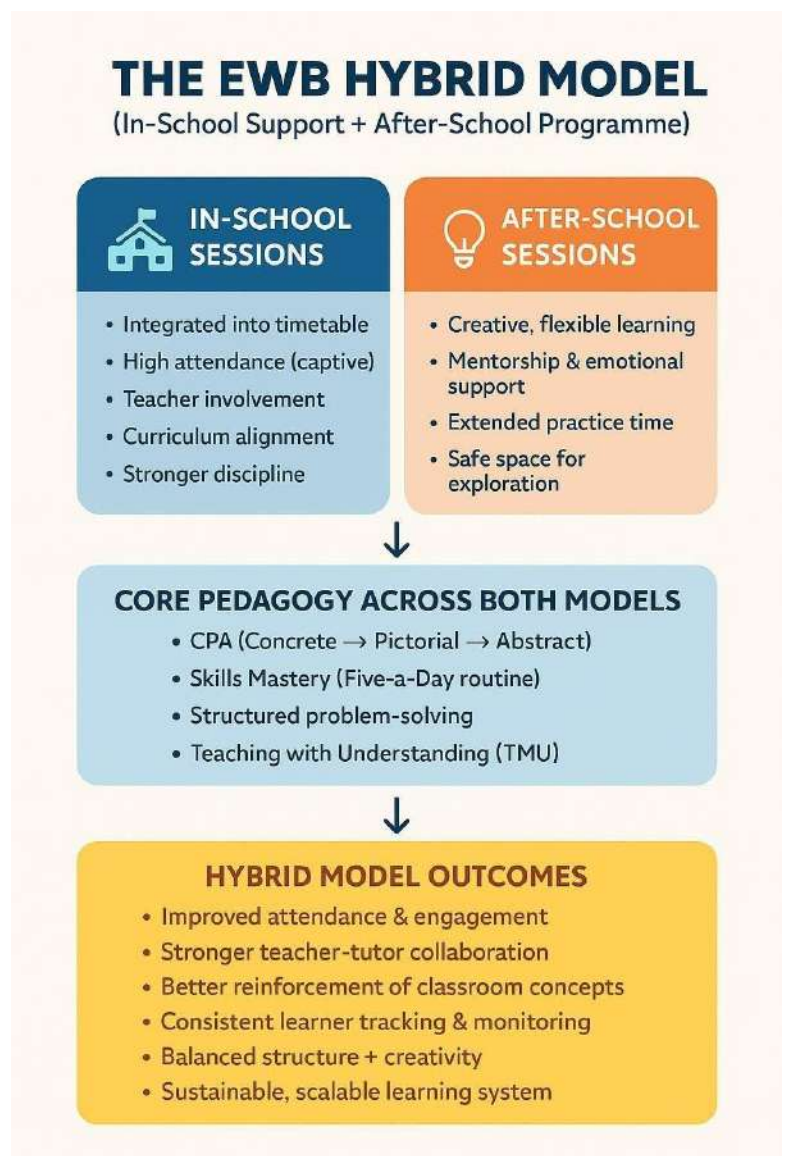
Launching the Hybrid Learning Model

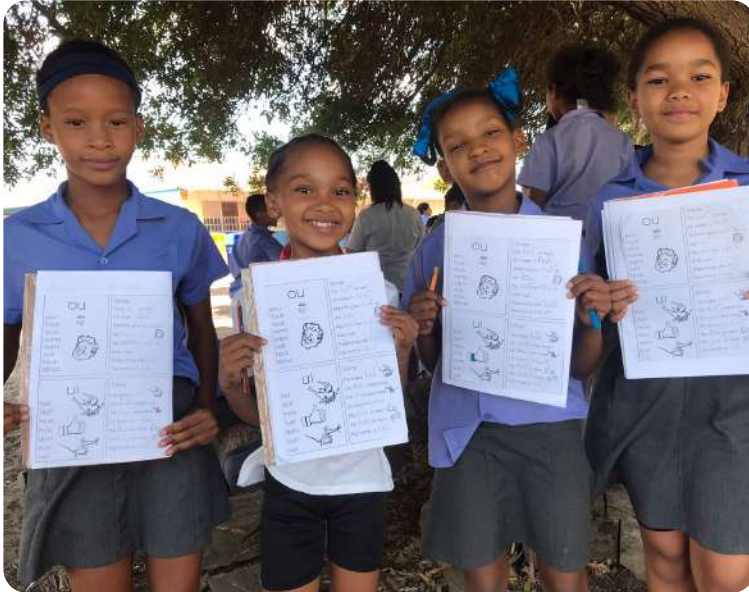
In 2025, EwB introduced the hybrid learning model, integrating structured in-school academic support with its established after-school tutoring programme. Tutors were embedded into the school day, particularly in Mathematics classrooms, while continuing to provide consistent after-school support.

The model strengthened alignment with classroom teaching, improved learner engagement, and increased access to timely academic support. Morning and in-school sessions at selected schools were especially effective in boosting participation and ensuring continuity in learning.

The hybrid model was designed to complement—not replace—existing structures, and the after-school programme remained a key space for consolidation, mentorship and psychosocial support.

Overall, the approach strengthened collaboration between tutors and teachers and marked a clear step toward more integrated, responsive learning support in schools.





Mathematics Programme

EwB's after-school Mathematics Programme delivered measurable improvements in learner achievement across Grades 4–7 in 2025, with **100% of grades showing improvement** through targeted tutoring and a Skills Mastery approach.

- Average mathematics achievement increased from 31% to 43% across Grades 4–7 (+12 percentage points).
- Learners moved out of the lowest achievement bands into higher levels of mathematical competence across all grades.
- Strongest overall gains were seen in Grades 6 and 7.
- Significant improvement in foundational skills including number concepts, operations, fractions, measurement, and problem solving.
- Fractions and operations showed particularly strong growth, addressing key areas of historical learner difficulty.
- Outcomes were achieved with approximately 4.5 hours of mathematics support every two weeks.
- Overall, the programme shows that targeted, data-driven intervention can significantly improve foundational mathematics outcomes in challenging contexts.



EwB's Partnership with TLT

The Learning Trust supports after school education that helps children develop the skills they need to achieve their ambitions in life. EwB is privileged to host and mentor 45 interns through The Learning Trust (TLT) programme, creating a valuable bridge between youth development and community impact. These interns play an integral role in supporting mathematics, literacy, language enrichment, and learner support programmes across our partner schools, while simultaneously gaining meaningful workplace experience, mentoring, and professional skills. Their contribution strengthens programme delivery, expands learner reach, and builds a pipeline of passionate young education practitioners committed to serving underserved communities.

EwB's partnership with TLT deepened in both scale and impact across schools in 2025. The presence of trained staff enabled tutors and site coordinators to focus more intentionally on teaching and learner engagement, while improving the efficiency of daily operations.

A growing number of parents and grandparents participated as members of the TLT initiative, supporting reading development and strengthening literacy engagement within homes and communities. This intergenerational approach reinforces EwB's belief that educational transformation is most powerful when families become active partners in learning.



Beyond Academics

At the heart of EwB's work is the belief that education goes beyond academics. Throughout 2025, EwB continued investing in "whole child" programmes that support learners academically, emotionally, socially and physically. Through partnerships with schools and community organisations, learners accessed food support, surf and wellness initiatives, holiday programmes and leadership development opportunities. Learners also participated in service-oriented activities throughout the year, supporting local communities, assisting the elderly, and contributing to acts of care and kindness. Many learners described this as the highlight of their year, noting that the opportunity to serve others gave them a sense of purpose beyond academics.



Investing in Tutors and Academic Excellence

EwB maintained a strong focus on tutor development and programme quality across all seven sites. Throughout 2025, EwB invested in ongoing lesson planning support, mathematics pedagogy, literacy coaching, emotional intelligence, equipment training and report writing workshops.

Site-specific training led by Tassin Davids strengthened instructional consistency and tutor confidence, while additional Mathematics support through AMESA enriched content delivery and reinforced CPA and Skills Mastery approaches.

TUTOR SPOTLIGHT



"I recently qualified as a lawyer in South Africa. I'm now in my first year, pursuing my master's in law. Long before that I was a tutor for Education without Borders."

EwB gave me the opportunity to make a meaningful contribution in my community. It also gave me financial freedom which was very helpful as someone from an underserved community. I was able to take care of my needs as a student, but also prepare myself for the transition from school to the workforce. If you ask me, being part of EwB was one of the best decisions I ever made."

— **ASITHANDILE MAYILA**



Addressing Sexual Violence Against Women (GBV)

EwB deepened its commitment to learner wellbeing and protection through expanded Gender-Based Violence (GBV) awareness and support initiatives. In 2025, EwB secured a **\$23,000 CAD grant** from the Unitarian Universalist Community of Victoria through the [Zoie Gardner Overseas Fund](#) to support the development of a GBV programme across EwB's seven partner schools.

Scheduled to begin in 2026, the programme will support Grade 7 and 9 learners across three primary and four high schools through GBV workshops, trauma informed learner support, curriculum discussions, and safe space dialogue. A 14-minute short film *SHAME*, with gender-based violence (GBV) as its theme, was created by the Waterfront Dance Theatre School (Cape Town) in August 2024 with funding by EwB (Canada). One of the ideas behind the creation of *SHAME*, was for the EwB team to take it to schools in the Western Cape and, together with a number of organizations such as [Khululeka](#) develop a GBV educational programme with the viewing of *SHAME* as a catalyst for discussion.

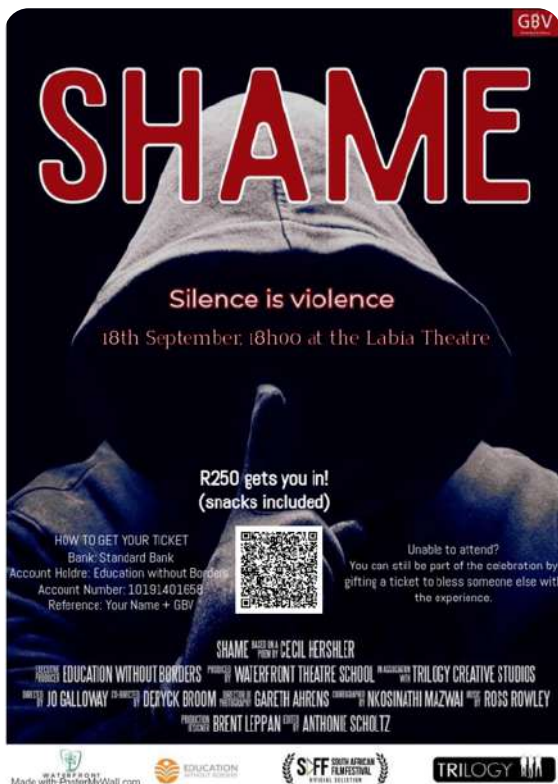


EwB Team at the
SHAME Film screening



The public screening of the EwB produced film, SHAME, at the Labia Theatre in Cape Town in November 2025 brought together learners, educators, community members and partners from UCT, WCED and the Department of Social Development.

The screening and discussion opened honest conversations on trauma, violence, healing and identity. Audience members described it as “transformative” and “a voice for the silent,” highlighting the power of arts-based education to build empathy and awareness.



Partnerships

EwB strengthened relationships with principals, Heads of Departments, teachers and school support staff across all sites. These partnerships were essential to the success of both academic and wellbeing programmes, and promoted strong collaboration and more effective planning and program implementation.

EwB also partners with organisations across education, government, business and youth development to strengthen learner support, expand opportunities and deepen its impact across schools and communities:

- **Safe Schools:** supporting learner wellbeing, safety and secure school environments, and strengthening EwB's GBV rollout and protection systems
- **NuLeaf Brands:** providing donations and resources that enhance learner activities and reduce programme costs
- **Mellon Educate (Sage Parenzee):** contributing literacy tools and assessment support for the Language Enrichment Programme
- **UWC Faculty of Agriculture:** offering academic input and exposure opportunities for Life Sciences and STEM development
- **City of Cape Town:** supporting civic engagement, youth programmes and community-based learning opportunities
- **Miss Teen SA:** promoting youth leadership, confidence and personal development, particularly among girls



A Year in Review

FACTS & STATS

	Females	Males	Total #
Total after-school program learners	261 (62.4%)	157 (37.6%)	418
In school - language enrichment program	349 (47.9%)	379 (52.1%)	728
Number of primary school learners in Grade 4-7	189 (63.9%)	107 (36.1%)	296
Number of high school learners in Grades 8 and 12	72 (59%)	50 (41%)	122
	Maths	English	Total #
Total number of mathematics and english sessions (1.5 hours per session) for primary schools	494 (56%)	382 (44%)	947
Total number of mathematics sessions (1.5 hours per session) for high schools	171	n/a	171
	Language enrichment		
Total number of language enrichment sessions (1 hour per session) for grades 1, 2, and 3 learners (In-school)	237		

EwB Team in South Africa

A huge thank you to our EwB Team for delivering these programmes with commitment, care, and passion.

- Corvell Cranfield, Director of Education and Operations
- Anthea Jansen, Program Lead
- Likho Lubisi, Site Coordinator, Nyameko Primary School in Mfuleni
- Lungiswa May, Admin Assistant and Tutor
- Mickayla Smith, Site Coordinator, Bellville South Primary and High Schools
- Unathi September, Site Coordinator, Mseki Primary School
- Tassin Davids, Tutor and Alumni Coordinator



EwB is Looking Forward

We recognise that meaningful impact measurement is both complex and essential. We are therefore working closely with our South African management team to design and implement a robust, coherent framework for monitoring, evaluation, and learning across all EwB programs.

While powerful anecdotal evidence continues to affirm the transformative effect of our work, we are intentionally strengthening our approach through the integration of rigorous quantitative metrics. This will enable us to track progress with greater precision, demonstrate measurable outcomes, and communicate our impact with clarity, transparency, and confidence.

Our goal is not only to evidence change, but to build a credible, data-informed system that continually improves programme effectiveness and ensures accountability to the communities we serve and the donors who support us.

EwB Canada

Indigenous Projects in Canada

In 2025, following the success of *Xwémalhkwa Hero Stories: A Graphic Novel* (2024)—a landmark project that brought Elders’ voices to new generations through comic art —TSL Enterprises Ltd, the Xwémalhkwa (Homalco) First Nation (HFN), Education without Borders, and the UBC Comics Studies Cluster launched a new community-driven Indigenous Comics Initiative.

This second graphic novel project will focus on the annual canoe journey that the HFN and many of BC’s other coastal First Nations participate in to preserve their culture and language, and to provide intergenerational connection and inter-nation relationship-building opportunities to Indigenous youth and community members.

This project expands on the earlier work of *Xwémalhkwa Hero Stories: A Graphic Novel*, which interpreted archival recordings of Elders and visually represented cultural knowledge for youth, schools, and the broader public. However, this new initiative turns to contemporary cultural practice—the preparation, protocols, teachings, and intergenerational relationships that shape the canoe journey today.



Tawineyi Community School in Zimbabwe

In the heart of rural Zimbabwe, an extraordinary undertaking continues to take root. Through an ongoing partnership and support, EwB Canada contributed to the development of Tawineyi Community School, a grassroots educational initiative currently under construction and named in honour of its founder's late father.

More than a school, Tawineyi is envisioned as both an early childhood education centre and a community hub grounded in the belief that education should be rooted in culture, land, and local knowledge systems. The school aims to support young learners not only in literacy and numeracy but also in storytelling, music, traditional farming, gardening, and the arts.



"To everyone that supported this journey, many thanks. To everyone who continues to believe in brighter futures in spite of the darkness that seems have us in its grip, I salute you. Dreaming is not for the faint of heart!"

— CHAKA CHIKODZI
Zimbabwean-Canadian artist and
Tawineyi Community School
Founder

The **Tawineyi Community School** project reflects a broader vision of education that honours intergenerational wisdom, strengthens community resilience, and bridges ancestral heritage with future opportunity. Through its partnership with Education without Borders, Tawineyi Community School seeks to provide meaningful educational resources while empowering local educators and families.

[Learn more](#)



EwB Australia

Donor Evenings

EwB (Aus) has been actively committed to keeping our donors informed and engaged with the operational side of EwB during the year – even when the SAFF isn't running. We have found that having short in person gatherings has been a satisfying way to meet and connect and keep our donors and EwB friends informed. We use recordings from Corvell, engagement with Jo and Claire, good cheese and wine – and all this makes for a friendly opportunity for lively conversation.

Fundraising

In 2025, EwB Australia ran 3 successful campaigns:

- **Maths campaign:** Run during our Film Festival, this campaign raised funds to support EwB's unique maths program. The development and expansion of the program has meant that increasing numbers of students, once struggling with maths, are now thriving beyond all expectations. Their confidence has soared – and their parents can hardly believe the change.
- **Giving Tuesday:** raised funds to gift students a backpack filled with essential school supplies.
- **Christmas appeal:** through which we were able to donate a gift card to tutors as a small, but heartfelt thank-you for their tireless work to help students excel in English, Maths, and Afrikaans.



Early Learning

Additionally, as part of our commitment to supporting the whole child, with a special focus on Early Learning, we're thrilled to share that EwB (Australia) has contributed significantly to the Early Learning Program through a generous contribution from The Pinshaw Foundation. This donation is their way to honour and commemorate the late Beryl Pinshaw who began the Peninsular School Feeding scheme, an organisation still making a significant difference in many children's lives.

The Pinshaw foundation is thereby supporting **language enrichment** sessions which focus on reading, phonics and basic writing skills in home languages. This focus has led to an innovative initiative now called The Learning Lighthouse: a purpose-built literacy centre where carefully selected Grade 1 learners receive one-on-one support from trained parents and teachers. This work is laying vital foundations for long-term educational success.



Donor Spotlight

"I was privileged to have received a high-quality school and university education in South Africa. However, I am acutely aware that such opportunities were not available to many during the Apartheid era.

I vividly remember a classmate—a 30-year-old family man with a science degree—who joined our physiotherapy course. He was forced to drop out, partly because he lived in Soweto and had to endure hours of public transport to reach campus on time.

The colour of one's skin should never determine the ability to study. Unfortunately, this inequality persists today in both Australia and South Africa. I hope my support encourages others to contribute to EwB and help uplift those seeking a better education."

- RENEE PINSHAW



SOUTH AFRICAN FILM FESTIVAL **OPENING NIGHT 21 JUNE**



South African Film Festival (SAFF)

SAFF is EwB's primary annual fundraising initiative, presented through two regional festivals: one in Australia and New Zealand, and one in Canada and the United States. The festival offers itself as a valuable opportunity through which to showcase the impressive South African film industry. Beyond raising vital funds, the festivals celebrate South African storytelling, foster cultural connection, and engage audiences in support of EwB's mission. Many donors speak about the impact of the films on their emotional relationship with and memory of South Africa.

Australia and New Zealand

Films are screened in the following cities in Australia including Brisbane, Perth, Sydney and Melbourne and Auckland in NZ. Each in-cinema screening includes a short introductory video about EwB. Our annual festival and especially the opening night is a much anticipated event. South African Tourism has been sponsoring lively entertainment; we provide South African wine, beer and typical South African fare. Slowly we are managing to reach a broader audience including many local Australians and Africans who appear to be loving the spirit of SA.

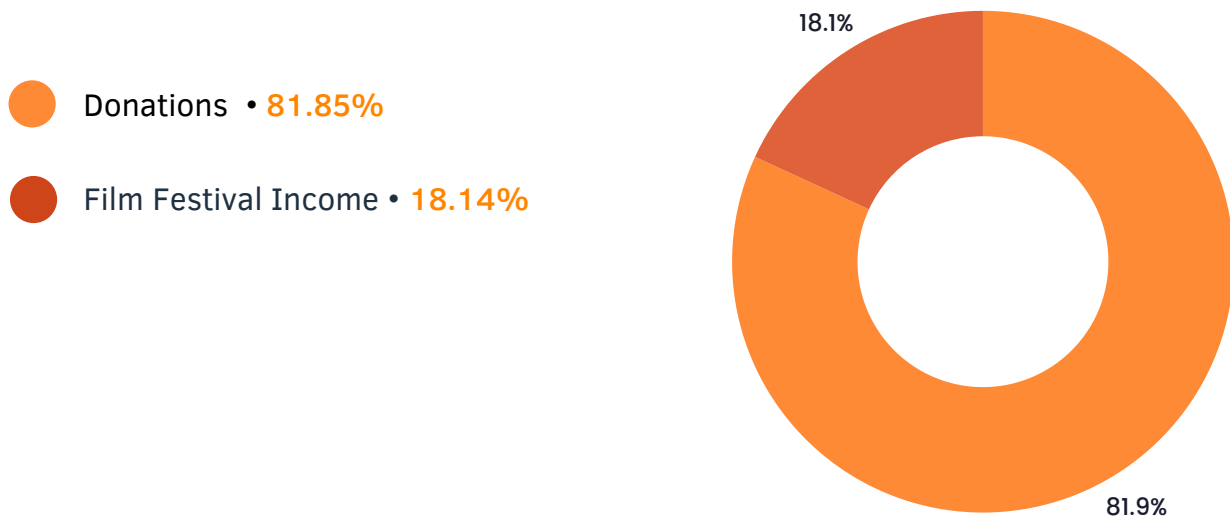
Canada & USA

The 2025 festival in Canada and the USA raised over \$41,000 in support of EwB, including contributions to the Grandmothers for Grandmothers campaign of the Stephen Lewis Foundation and Ubuntu Village through Toronto festival events. Audience participation remains an important part of the festival experience, and this year's audience selected favourites were *The Friendship Bench*, *Legacy*, and *Diary of an Elephant Orphan*. We congratulate the filmmakers and all those involved in bringing these powerful stories to audiences.

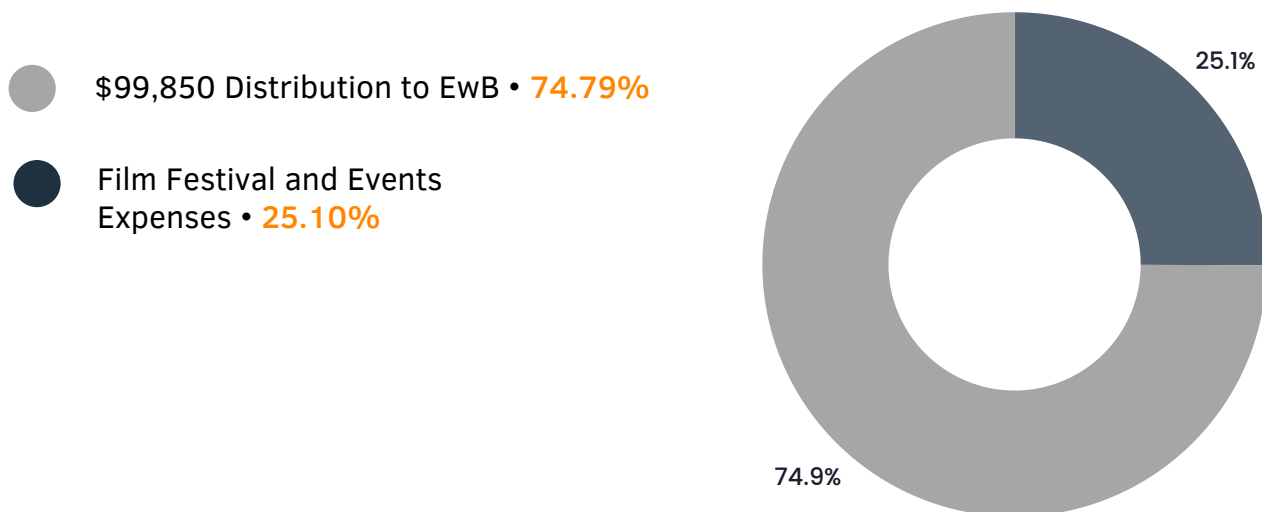


2025 Financials: Australia & New Zealand

EWB GROSS REVENUE IN 2025 = \$112,373



EWB TOTAL EXPENSES IN 2025 = \$133,513

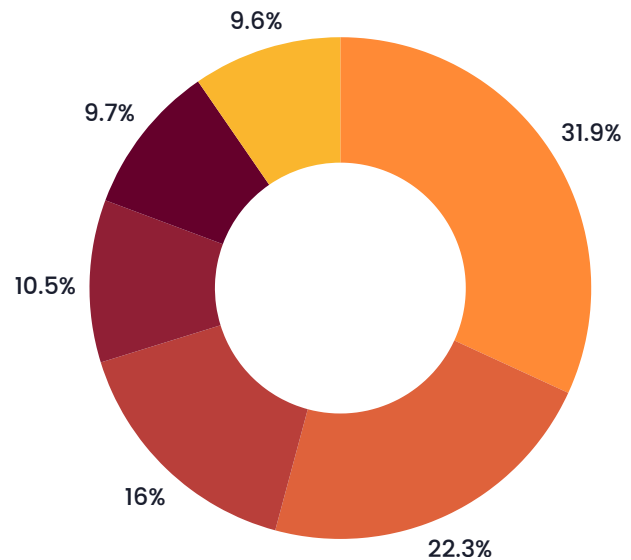


Amounts in Australian dollars

2025 Financials: Canada

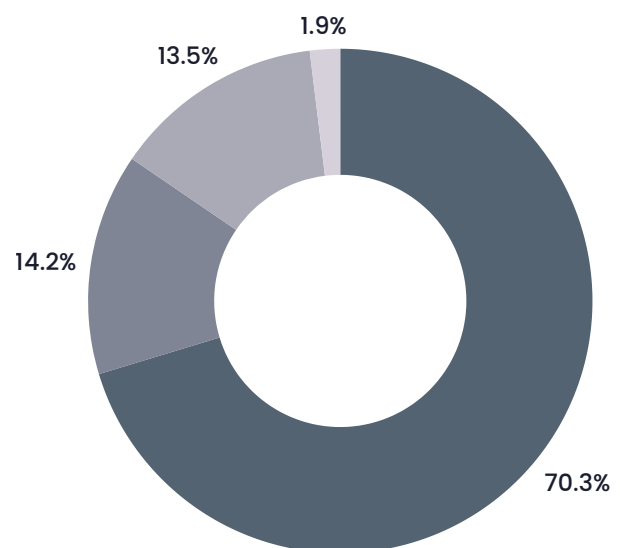
EWB GROSS REVENUE IN 2025 = \$236,570

- Individual Donations • 31.86%
- Film Festival • 22.32%
- *Partnerships - Zimbabwe (net) • 16.03%
- Corporate Donations • 10.48%
- Grants • 9.71%
- Investment Income • 9.60%



EWB TOTAL EXPENSES IN 2025 = \$127,990

- Disbursement to EwB Programs in South Africa • 70.32%
- Film Festival Expenses • 14.21%
- Indigenous Projects in Canada • 13.53%
- Miscellaneous • 1.94%



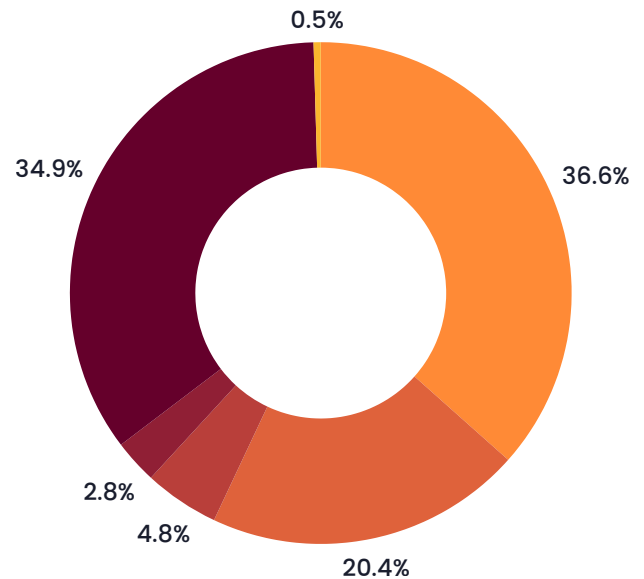
Amounts in Canadian dollars

**Partnership with the Tawineyi school project in Zimbabwe provides EwB with 15% of their total donations. [Learn more.](#)*

2025 Financials: South Africa

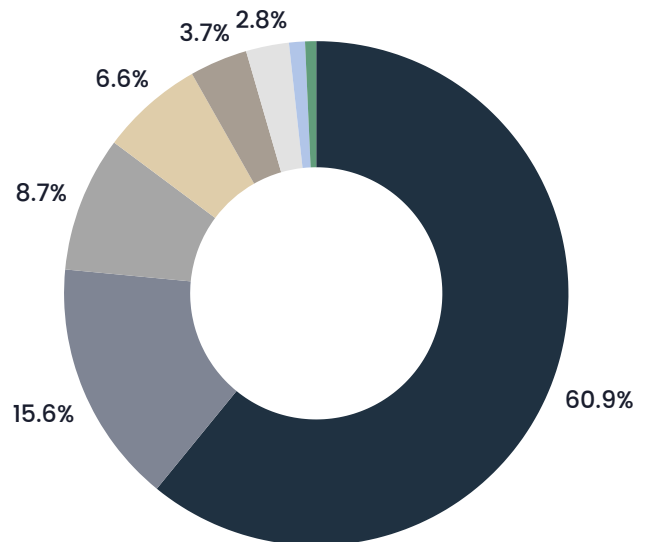
EWB GROSS REVENUE IN 2025 = R 3,088,841

- Donations from EwB Canada • **36.57%**
- Donations from EwB Australia • **34.87%**
- Donations from EwB South Africa • **20.42%**
- Interest Received • **4.84%**
- The Learning Trust Grant • **2.83%**
- Labia Film Screening Event • **0.46%**



EWB TOTAL EXPENSES IN 2025 = R 2,954,131

- Program salaries in South Africa • **60.90%**
- Tutor Stipends and Training • **15.62%**
- General Program Expenses • **8.69%**
- Feeding Programme • **6.60%**
- Learning Lighthouse Container • **3.71%**
- Accountant/Internet/Bank Charges • **2.76%**
- Miscellaneous Expenses • **1.02%**
- Tertiary Education Support • **0.71%**



Amounts in South African Rand

Board of Directors

In 2025, Education without Borders was governed by three regional Boards in Canada, Australia and South Africa. Members provide financial support through fundraising efforts such as EwB's South African Film Festivals.

AUSTRALIA

Claire Jankelson, Chair
Jo Silbert, Vice-Chair
Stuart Loveday, Secretary
Sofia Parker, Treasurer
Tessa Bachmayer
Mary Boardman
Cecil Hershler
David Jankelson
Keith Miller
Lynne Perl

CANADA

Cecil Hershler, Chair
Ruth Hershler, Executive
Director
Sandy Berman
Denese Belchetz
Judy Kirby
Michele Paulse
Tim Pezarro
Wendy Royal

SOUTH AFRICA

Thato Makgolane, Chair
Ruth Hershler
Stephen Murefu
Betty Kaseke
Jo Silbert

*Board list represents
EwB's Board of Directors
as of December 31, 2025.*

Growth of EwB SA Board in 2025

In 2025, a key strategic priority was to strengthen EwB's South Africa Board by enhancing its branding, fundraising, and governance capabilities within South Africa. To support this objective, the Board established three sub-committees:

- Education Advisory Committee (EAC)
- Fundraising and Marketing Committee (FMC)
- Finance Committee (FC)

The terms of reference and membership for each committee were developed and approved in 2025. All three committees report directly to the EwB South Africa Board.



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